

The Department of Museums, Library and Arts was created in 1993 by the Nevada State Legislature. Chapter 466 of the Statutes of the State of Nevada, 1993, reorganized the executive department of state government and combined the formerly separate departments of Museums and History, State Library and Archives, and the Nevada Arts Council; and the Division of Historical Preservation and Archeology. In 2001 the Department's name was changed to the Department of Cultural Affairs. It now includes the Nevada State Library and Archives, the Division of Museums and History, Nevada Arts Council, and the State Historic Preservation Office. The Department is headed by a director who is a member of the Governor's cabinet.

The mission of the Department of Cultural Affairs is to enrich the lives of citizens and visitors to the State of Nevada, through cultural and information management, leadership, and the preservation and promotion of cultural resources and activities and education.

The director and divisions of the Department of Cultural Affairs are assisted by the following boards and commissions:

- The Board of Museums and History
- The Commission for Cultural Affairs
- The Council on Libraries and Literacy
- The State Historical Records Advisory Board